



Cooperative Ratepayers receive good news for the New Year

Anza Electric Cooperative members can look forward to their electricity rates remaining the same in 2014, thanks to recent action by their elected Board of Directors.

“We were fortunate to have a moderate rate reduction by our energy supplier in Arizona,” said Anza Board President Billy Adams. “We’re very happy to continue our mission of providing the lowest possible cost of electricity to our members. Being able to maintain our current rates is very important to the Board of Directors.”

This reduction in wholesale costs came at a good time for Anza Electric. Recent cost increases due to the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB32) had made it look like a cost increase was inevitable.

“This lower cost of energy has made it possible to hold the line on rates for our members in 2014,” stated cooperative General Manager Kevin Short. “Due to AB32, we’ve incurred a projected increase at the wholesale level of about

\$750,000 per year in energy costs alone, without considering other cost increases.”

AB32 is an economy wide attempt by the state of California to address the climate effects of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. According to the California Air Resources Board, AB32 is designed to reduce the state’s GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. This reduction is to be brought about by reducing our reliance on fossil fuels through a variety of efficiency and energy resource changes. The initial program involves only the electric utility sector, but will expand to include transportation and industry as well.

“While we are happy about being able to maintain our current rates, the next four or five years may be a different situation,” Short mentioned. “The effects of AB32 have yet to be determined when the program ramps up to include all sectors of the economy. We will be living in a totally new world at that point.”

AEC debuted its Facebook page last month! We’ll be utilizing the page for special events, energy savings tips, outage updates and more!



Need help with your prescriptions?

Some prescriptions may not be covered with the Affordable Care Act.

Your Co-op Connections card may help with your prescription costs and other health related services.

A partnership with New Benefits—a nationally recognized provider of uninsured health benefits—allows Co-op Connections cardholders to save money on prescription drugs at more than 48,000 pharmacies nationwide, including some in Temecula, Hemet, Anza and the desert area.

Search online to find discounted prices on prescriptions (www.rxpricequotes.com) and participating locations (www.locateproviders.com).

This same program that offers discounts at local merchants and has saved Anza Electric Cooperative, Inc. members more than \$20,000 on prescriptions now offers you significant savings on dental, vision, hearing, lab & imaging services and chiropractic work.

Simply show your Co-op Connections Card at a participating provider and you will receive a discount.

To locate providers that participate in the Healthy Savings program, call 800-800-7616 or visit www.healthysavings.coop.

Be sure to have the newest version of the Co-op Connections Card handy. You can pick up a new one at the cooperative office or you can print one using the instructions below.



Dental



Chiropractic



Hearing Aids



Labs-Imaging



Prescriptions



Vision

Lost your card?

If you have lost your Co-op Connections card, you can come by the office and get a new one or print out a paper card at www.connections.coop. Click on the *Healthy Savings* tab and select *Print My Card*.

Paying your bill was never so easy

Online bill payment • Automatic Payment Draft • Alerts & Reminders

Access your account information, make online payments, set up automatic payment drafts and receive free notification when your bill is due through the Alerts & Reminders Program (below). You may also elect to receive your bill electronically.

For first time users, your account number is listed on your bill. Please follow the instructions on the website portal, or give us a call to get the initial password to set up your profile.

- Visit our website at www.anzaelectric.org.
- Click on the credit card logos on the home page under “Pay My Bill.”
- Select “My Account.”

Account Alerts & Reminders

Once you’ve established your account profile (above) you can set up the account *Alerts & Reminders* by selecting the “My Alerts” tab at the top of the page.

You can now receive account updates by text or email for the following:

- Account due date reminders
- Account profile changes
- Past due notifications
- Returned check alert
- Payment Confirmation

Feel free to contact the AEC office with any questions at 951-763-4333 or aec@anzaelectric.org.

Take Steps to Prepare for Outages

Despite AEC’s best efforts to keep your power on, Mother Nature sometimes has the last word.

Fallen tree branches, swirling winds, freezing rain and heavy snow all can wreak havoc on the power system, toppling poles, bringing down lines and leaving customers without electricity.

To better cope in the cold darkness, make sure your home is equipped with a power outage kit. It should include:

- **A flashlight and extra batteries.** Have a flashlight, oil-or battery-powered lamp or lantern.
- **Candles and matches.** Although you should not carry them around in the dark, candles are safe when set on a flat, stable, nonflammable surface.
- **A battery-powered radio.** If the outage is lengthy and associated with another emergency situation, radio reports will provide regular updates.
- **Emergency phone numbers.** Keep numbers for your utility, doctor, fire department and sheriff easily accessible.
- **A telephone connected directly to the phone jack.** Cordless phones and phones with answering machines rely on electricity to operate.
- **A first-aid kit and prescription medications.** Make sure you have an ample supply of all medicines you regularly use. During a storm, road travel may not be possible for several days.
- **Extra blankets, sleeping bags and warm clothes.** If you are without heat for an extended period of time, close off one room to live in, and layer clothes.
- **Clean drinking water.** Fresh water is not always available when the power is out - particularly if you rely on a well. Have at least 1 gallon for each person per day.
- **A manual can opener and non-perishable food.** Canned or instant food and freeze-dried meals are good to have on hand, but often require hot water and/or a source of heat to prepare (a camp stove and fuel may be handy, but be sure to use it outdoors). Breakfast bars, crackers, peanut butter, and canned or dried fruit require no preparation. Don't forget paper plates.
- **A cooler for storing frequently used foods.** Foods will keep several hours in a closed refrigerator, and up to two days in the freezer. It will spoil more quickly if the door is opened or the refrigerator or freezer is not full.
- **Firewood and kindling.** If you have a fireplace or wood stove, make sure you have an adequate supply of wood and plenty of matches.



Photo by Mike Teegarden